

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

a) receiving said program content from a broadcaster;

b) receiving from said broadcaster a data stream comprising a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with said program content;

B1 ~~e) selecting from said data stream one or more URLs of particular interest to a user; and~~

d) c) directing said set of URLs received from said broadcaster to a computer system and directing said program content received from said broadcaster to said television, wherein said computer system uses information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs one or more URLs of particular interest to a user, said computer system storing said one or more URLs separately from said program content, wherein said one or more URLs are retrievable independent of said program content;

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information identified by said one or more URLs is separately concurrently displayed on said computer system ~~a device other than said television.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) further comprises said computer system ~~the steps of:~~

c1) comparing characteristics describing each URL in ~~of~~ said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said ~~a user profile comprising user-specified characteristics; and~~

c2) identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

c3) storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 2 further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said data stream comprising said set of URLs is embedded in said program content.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of:~~

e) receiving a command for performing a function from a remote device via the Internet.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said one or more ~~subset of~~ URLs.

8. (Currently Amended) In a device communicatively coupled to the Internet, a method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving information at said device via the Internet, said information comprising a channel number that identifies program content that is being received ~~by at a television from a broadcaster that is communicatively coupled to the~~ Internet;

b) identifying at said device a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for Web sites associated with said program content; and

c) communicating one or more of said URLs from said device to a computer system second device that is communicatively coupled to said device via the Internet, wherein said device uses information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs said one or more URLs that are communicated to said computer system; and

d) ~~storing wherein~~ said one or more URLs are stored at said computer system second device separately from said program content such that said one or more URLs are retrievable from said computer system without accessing said program content, wherein said identifying ~~[[,]]~~ and communicating ~~and storing~~ are performed automatically without user intervention; and

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information associated with said set of URLs is retrieved and concurrently displayed separately on said computer system ~~a device other than said television.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step b) further comprises ~~the step of~~:

b1) said device selecting from said set of URLs a subset of URLs of particular interest to a user.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said step b1) comprises said device ~~the steps of~~:

21
comparing characteristics describing each URL in ~~of~~ said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said ~~a user profile comprising user-specified~~ characteristics; and

identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 10 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein ~~said second device is a set top box communicatively coupled to said television, wherein~~ said one or more URLs are communicated from said device to said computer system

via a set top box that is communicatively coupled to the Internet received by said second device are communicated to said device other than said television.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) In a device communicatively coupled to the Internet, a A method for providing Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a said television, said method comprising the steps of:

81
a) receiving at said device via the Internet from a set top box a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with said program content, said set top box receiving said set of URLs from a broadcaster, said set top box also receiving said program content from said broadcaster and directing said program content to said television;

b) selecting said device using information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs one or more URLs of particular interest to a user; and

c) ~~storing and retrieving said one or more URLs independent from said program content;~~

d) ~~receiving~~ c) communicating Web-based information identified by said one or more URLs from said device to a computer system via the Internet, wherein said URLs are accessed independent from said program content; and

e) ~~displaying said Web-based information on a device other than said television;~~

wherein said Web-based information is displayed on said computer system and said program content is separately concurrently displayed on said television.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 15 wherein said step b) comprises said device ~~the steps of~~:

b1) comparing characteristics describing each URL in ~~of~~ said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said a user profile ~~comprising user-specified characteristics; and~~

b2) identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; ~~and~~

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b3) storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 16 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

Claims 18-20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 15 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said one or more URLs.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A set top box comprising:

a bus;

a ~~memory unit~~ processor coupled to said bus; and

a ~~processor~~ memory unit coupled to said bus, said memory unit containing instructions that when executed implement processor for executing a method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving said program content from a broadcaster;

b) receiving from said broadcaster a data stream comprising a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with said program content;

c) screening said set of URLs using information in a user profile and selecting from said set of URLs data stream one or more URLs of particular interest to a user; ~~and~~

d) directing said one or more URLs to a computer system and directing said program content to said television, wherein storing said one or more URLs are stored and retrieved separately from said program content, wherein said one or more URLs are retrievable independent of said program content;

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information identified by said one or more URLs is separately concurrently displayed on said computer system ~~a device other than said television.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The set top box of Claim 23 wherein said step c) of said method comprises ~~the steps of~~:

c1) comparing characteristics describing each URL in of said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said a user profile comprising user-specified characteristics; and

c2) identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

c3) storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

25. (Currently Amended) The set top box of Claim 24 wherein said method further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

26. (Original) The set top box of Claim 23 wherein said data stream comprising said set of URLs is embedded in said program content.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) The set top box of Claim 23 wherein said method further comprises ~~the step of~~:

e) receiving a command for performing a function from a remote device via the Internet.

29. (Original) The set top box of Claim 23 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said one or more subset of URLs.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method comprising the steps of:

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a) ~~receiving program content viewable on a television;~~

b) a) receiving at said computer system a data stream comprising a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with said program content received by a set top box, said program content directed by said set top box to a television;

c) b) selecting using information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said data stream one or more URLs of particular interest to a user; and

d) c) storing said one or more URLs separately from said program content, wherein said one or more URLs are retrievable independent of said program content;

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information identified by said one or more URLs is separately concurrently displayed on said computer system ~~a device other than said television.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform said method comprising the steps of:

e1) b1) comparing characteristics describing each URL in ~~of~~ said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said a user profile ~~comprising user-specified~~ characteristics; and

e2) b2) identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

b3) storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 31 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

33. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 wherein said data stream comprising said set of URLs is embedded in said program content.

34. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 wherein said data stream comprising said set of URLs is received from a remote device via the Internet.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 ~~31~~ wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform said method comprising the step of:

e) d) receiving a command for performing a function from a remote device via the Internet.

36. (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said subset of URLs.

37. (Currently Amended) A set top box comprising:

means for receiving program content from a broadcaster and for directing said program content to viewable on a television;

means for receiving from said broadcaster a data stream comprising a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with said program content;

means for screening said set of URLs based on information in a user profile and for selecting from said data stream one or more URLs of particular interest to a user; and

means for directing said one or more URLs to a computer system, wherein said one or more URLs are stored and retrieved separately from said program content; and

~~means for storing said one or more URLs separately from said program content, wherein said one or more URLs are retrievable independent of said program content;~~

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information identified by said one or more URLs is separately concurrently displayed on said computer system ~~a device other than said television~~.

38. (Currently Amended) The set top box of Claim 37 comprising:
means for comparing characteristics describing each URL in ~~of~~ said set of
URLs with user-specified characteristics in said ~~a user profile comprising user-~~
~~specified characteristics; and~~
means for identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said
user-specified characteristics; and
means for storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

39. (Original) The set top box of Claim 38 further comprising:
means for monitoring URLs selected by said user; and
means for adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user
to said user profile.

40. (Original) The set top box of Claim 37 wherein said data stream
comprising said set of URLs is embedded in said program content.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Original) The set top box of Claim 37 comprising:
means for receiving a command for performing a function from a remote
device via the Internet.

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43. (Original) The set top box of Claim 37 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said one or more ~~subset of~~ URLs.
